

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3, 7-10, 12, 15-18, 20-24, 27, 33-40, 51-53, 56, and 58-68 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8, 16, 21, 27, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, and 40 being the independent claims. Claims 4-6, 11, 13, 14, 19, 25, 26, 28-32, 41-50, 54, 55, and 57 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 34-39 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 58-68 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants affirm the election of the invention of Group I, claims 1-33 and 40-57 made by Applicants' representative Michael Specht on May 3, 2007.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 8, 14, 16, and 47 were objected to because of informalities. Specifically, claims 8 and 16 were objected to because of the use of the acronym "MAC" without specifying in the claim language what the acronym stands for. (Office Action, p. 3). Applicants have amended claims 8 and 16 to clarify that the acronym MAC stands for "Media Access Controller."

Claims 14 and 47 have been canceled by the above amendment, rendering the objection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-10, 12-15, 21-23, 25, 26, 28-33, 41-18, and 54-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Sperry, et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,162,630 (Sperry).

Claims 11, 49, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sperry in view of Kametani, U.S. Patent No. 6,839,346 (Kametani). Claims 16-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sperry in view of Narad, et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,157,955 (Narad). Claims 19 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sperry in view of Narad and Kametani. Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sperry in view of Amara et al, U.S. Patent No. 7,062,566 (Amara). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sperry in view of Vogel, U.S. Patent No. 6,959,007 (Vogel). Claims 40, 52, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sperry in view of Bilic, U.S. Patent No. 6,947,430 (Bilic). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

None of Sperry, Kametani, Narad, Amara, Vogel or Bilic alone or in any combination teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 21, 27, 33, and 40.

Sperry describes a TCP acceleration and security (TAAS) integrated circuit having a hardware circuitry portion, a set of network protocol processors (NPP), and a set of embedded processors (EP). (Sperry, col. 8, lines 6-8). A NPP performs IPsec acceleration and security association/security policy (SA/SP) lookup functions. (Sperry, col. 8, lines 53-55). For outbound packets, "SPD lookup [by the NPP] typically involves retrieving the SPD selectors (such as IP source address, IP destination address, TCP source address, TCP destination address) in order to access the appropriate IPsec protocol control block (IPsec PCB) ... If the IPsec PCB information indicates that security is warranted, there may be a pointer to the security association (SA) database so that the right security association may be obtained for the outgoing packet." (Sperry, col. 8, line 56 - col. 9, line 3).

Thus, Sperry does not teach or suggest a method or a processor configured to:

- receiv[e, ing] ... an internal outbound packet from an Ethernet controller ... wherein the internal outbound packet includes a flow identifier for the packet and a security processor identifier;

- process[ing] at least a portion of the received packet if the security processor identifier matches an identifier associated with the security processor, wherein the processing includes:

- using the flow identifier as a direct address handle to retrieve a security association for the received packet

as recited in amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 21, 27, and 33. Sperry also does not teach or suggest a method in an Ethernet controller including:

- receiving a TCP/IP packet in a data flow and storing context information associated with the TCP/IP packet;

- identifying flow identification information for the data flow including a flow identifier;

- generating the internal packet including a security identifier header having the flow identifier, a security processor identifier, and at least a portion of the TCP/IP packet; and

- transmitting the internal packet to the security processor over the PCI bus for cryptographic processing

as recited in amended independent claim 40.

None of Kametani, Narad, Amara, Vogel or Bilic overcome the deficiencies of Sperry relative to amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 21, 27, 33, and 40 described above. For at least these reasons, amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 21, 27, 33, and 40 are patentable over Sperry and Kametani, Narad, Amara, Vogel, or Bilic. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 58-62 depend from claim 1. Claims 9, 10, 12, 15, and 63-68 depend from claim 8. Claims 17, 18, and 20 depend from claim 16. Claims 22, 23, and 24 depend from claim 21; and claims 51-53 depend from claim 33. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 51-53, and 58-68 are patentable over Sperry and Kametani, Narad, Amara, Vogel, or Bilic. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

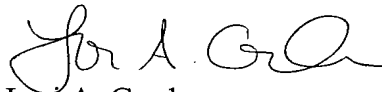
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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